

Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y O F O R T A G S A N D S U B J

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SUBJECT: SOVIET EMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV'S PRESS CONFERENCE

IN BERLIN APRIL 23

1. SUMMARY: IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION OF THE DEFEAT OF NAZI GERMANY IN 1945,
SOVIET AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV GAVE HIS FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE AT
THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN ON PARIL 23. ACCOR-
DING TO REPORTS, ONLY ACCREDITED JOURNALISTS FROM THE
GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND FROM OTHER SOCIALIST
STATES IN EASTERN EUROPE WERE INVITED TO THE CONFERENCE.
THE ACCOUNT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE, WHICH APPEARED IN
NEUES DEUTSCHLAND AND OTHER EAST GERMAN PAPERS APRIL 24,
APPEARS TO BE AN EDITED VERSION OF BOTH A PRESENTATION
BY ABRASIMOV AND ANSWERS TO QUESTION POSED BY THE
JOURNALISTS PRESENT. THE MAIN PORTIONS OF THE SPEECH
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DEALT WITH THE SOVIET CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEFEAT OF

NAZI GERMANY, PRAISE FOR THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC'S SUCCESS IN ACHIEVING A SOCIALIST SOCIETY, AND REFERENCE TO THE FOUR-POWER AGREEMENT ON BERLIN OF 1971. ON ALL OF THESE SUBJECTS ABRASIMOV PRESENTED THE SOVIET VIEW OF HISTORY AND THE SOVIET INTERPRETATION OF EVENTS RESULTING IN THE VICTORY IN 1945. END SUMMARY.

2. ON THE FIRST SUBJECT, ABRASIMOV STATED THAT THE GREATEST CONTRIBUTORS TO THE VICTORY AGAINST FACISM WERE THE SOVIET PEOPLE WHOSE FIGHTING AND WORK ON THE HOME FRONT MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE VICTORY IN 1945 TO BE ACHIEVED. HE SAID THAT THE SOVIET PEOPLE HAD BEEN SPURRED ON IN THEIR EFFORTS BY THE LEADING ROLE TAKEN BY THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY WHICH INSPIRED THEM TO SUCCESS. HE NOTED THAT "THE BEST PEOPLE" JOINED THE COMMUNIST PARTY DURING THE COURSE OF WORLD WAR II AND THAT OVER 2 MILLION COMMUNISTS GAVE UP THEIR LIVES IN THE COURSE OF DEFEATING HITLER. IN THIS SAME CONTEXT, HE PRAISED THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ANTI-HITLER COALITION WHOSE PEOPLES AND ARMIES WORKED AND FOUGHT SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE SOVIET UNION. HE PRAISED PARTICULARLY THE PARTISAN ORGANIZATIONS IN OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE FORMER COMMUNIST PARTY OF GERMANY (KPD) WHOSE LEADERS, WHETHER IN EXILE, WORKING UNDERGROUND IN GERMANY OR IN CONCENTRATION CAMPS AND PRISONS, CONTRIBUTED TO THE FINAL DEFEAT OF NAZISM.

3. IN THE SECOND PART OF HIS CONFERENCE, ABRASIMOV POINTED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GDR AS ONE OF THE IMPORTANT RESULTS OF THE VICTORY OVER NAZISM AND STATED THE HIGH REGARD IN WHICH THE GDR IS HELD BY THE SOVIET UNION. HE DESCRIBED THE VICTORY OVER HITLERISM AS OPENING THE WAY FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF OTHER SOCIALIST GOVERNMENTS IN EUROPE AND CONGRATULATED THE GDR ON THE PROGRESS IT HAS MADE TOWARD THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOCIALIST SOCIETY. SUCH A SUCCESS, ABRASIMOV STATED, IS A RESULT OF THE HARD WORK OF THE SOCIALIST UNITY PARTY AND THE NATIONAL FRONT OF THE GDR AND GIVES PROOF OF THE POWER OF THE IDEAS OF MARX AND LENIN. HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED THE YOUTH OF THE GDR AS MAKING A CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR COUNTRY CONSISTENT WITH THE SACRIFICES DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR WHICH MADE THIS DEVELOPMENT POSSIBLE.

4. IN THE THIRD SECTION OF THE CONFERENCE, ABRASIMOV DEALTH WITH "REACTIONARY FORCES IN THE WEST" WHO FALSIFIED HISTORY BY TRYING TO TAKE AWAY FROM THE SOVIET PEOPLE THE CREDIT FOR HAVING BORNE THE MAIN BURDEN OF VICTORY. HE DESCRIBED THESE PERSONS AS "PITIFUL PEOPLE MAKING PITIFUL ATTEMPTS TO CHANGE WHITE FOR BLACK." ABRASIMOV SAID HE MENTIONED THEM ONLY BECAUSE IN THE SPIRIT OF THOSE WHOE HAD FALLEN IN THE WAR, HE FELT OBLIGED TO DO SO.

5. ABRASIMOV THEN LAUNCHED INTO CONSIDERATION OF THE FOUR-POWER AGREEMENT OF 1971 WHICH HE SAID HAD BEEN STRICTLY OBSERVED BY THE SOVIET AND GDR SIDES. HE DESCRIBED THE AGREEMENT AS HAVING HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE ESSENTIAL TASK OF ACHIEVING A RELAXATION OF TENSIONS IN EUROPE. ABRASIMOV STATED THAT THE FOUR-POWER AGREEMENT DETERMINED THE STATUS OF WEST BERLIN IN THAT WEST BERLIN IS NOT A PART OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND MAY NOT BE GOVERNED FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. HE CRITICIZED "CERTAIN CIRCLES IN THE WEST" FOR ALLOWING PROVOCATIVE EVENTS WHICH ARE INCONSISTENT WITH THE FOUR-POWER AGREEMENT TO TAKE PLACE. ABRASIMOV CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT IF A WEST BERLINER WERE ASKED WHETHER THE CONCLUSION OF THE FOUR-POWER AGREEMENT MADE LIFE MORE CONFIDENT AND PEACEFUL HE WOULD RECEIVE THE ANSWER OF A CLEAR YES IN FAVOR OF THE AGREEMENT.

6 COMMENT: ABRASIMOV HAS GIVEN THE TRADITIONAL SOVIET LINE, CLAIMING VICTORY AGAINST FACISM TO HAVE BEEN THE WORK PRIMARILY OF THE SOVIET PEOPEL AND THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY. HE INTERPRETED THE VICTORY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN 1945 AS PROVIDING THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A GROWTH OF SOCIALIST GOVERNMENTS IN EUROPE, ALTHOUGH IN A SPEECH A FEW DAYS AGO HE DEXCRIBED THIS SAME EVENT AS HAVING WORLD-WIDE SIGNIFICANCE IN ALLOWING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SOCIALIST GOVERNMENTS IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD. HIS CONFERENCE ON THIS OCCASION WAS TAILORED TO GIVE

DUE CREDIT AND PRAISE TO THE GERMANY DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC FOR ESTABLISHING A SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT AND FOR ITS PROGRESS ON THE ROAD TO SOCIALISM.

7. AS FAR AS CAN BE DETERMINED, NO WESTERN PRESS REPRESENTATIVES RECEIVED INVITATIONS TO THE ABRASIMOV CONFERENCE. THE NEWSPAPERS TEXT OF THE CONFERENCE APPEARS TO BE AN EDITED VERSION OF WHAT ABRASIMOV

SAID AND IMPLIES THAT HE MADE A PRESENTATION BEFORE
THE CONFERENCE AND THEN RESPONDED TO QUESTIONS FROM
THE ASSEMBLED JOURNALISTS. EMBASSY WILL ATTEMPT TO
OBTAIN A COPY OF THE TEXT OF THE CONFERENCE AND WILL
TRANSMIT IT TO WASHINGTON WHEN RECEIVED.GROVE

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